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Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

On February 17, the County Executive presented his proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Advertised Budget Plan to the Board of Supervisors. Over the next six weeks, Supervisor Cook will be discussing this plan with the community. It is very early in the process, and Supervisor Cook is looking forward to working with all residents to create and pass a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of Fairfax County.

The County Executive's proposed budget retains the current property tax rate of \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value. At last week's board meeting, the Board voted to advertise that same \$1.09 rate, meaning that the final budget cannot have a rate higher than \$1.09.

This will be a deliberative process, and Supervisor Cook encourages you to share your thoughts. You can reach his office at 703-425-9300 or braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov. Over the next few weeks, there will be two budget Town Hall meetings, and there will also be public hearings offered by Fairfax County. Here are the important dates to keep in mind:

On **March 11th**, Supervisor Cook will be co-hosting a Budget Town Hall meeting with the Braddock District Council. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and will take place at Braddock Hall.

On **March 17th** at 7:30 p.m., Supervisor Cook will be hosting a second Town Hall meeting at Frost Middle School. County Executive Ed Long will present the budget.

Additionally, Fairfax County offers three nights of public hearings for residents to testify on the FY 2016 budget. The meetings will take place on **April 7th at 4:00 p.m.**, **April 8th at 1:00 p.m.**, and **April 9th at 1:00 p.m.** All three meetings will take place at the Government Center in the Board Auditorium. To sign up to speak, please contact the Clerk's Office [online](#) or by calling 703-324-3151.

For further details on the FY 2016 Advertised Budget please click [here](#).



Supervisor Cook has served on Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2009 and lives in Kings Park with his wife and children.

Veterans Treatment Docket

On February 12th, Supervisor Cook spoke at the dedication ceremony for the Veterans Treatment Docket. The ceremony was the kick-off event for the docket, which is leading the mission in providing critical care for veterans and their families. The Docket is providing therapy for veterans who have found themselves in trouble due to substance-abuse or mental health issues, especially as a result of combat service. The docket is the first of its kind in Virginia, but is part of a growing phenomenon across the country as judges, prosecutors and public defenders grapple with a wave of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans who have landed in the criminal justice system.

“These are people who were basically pillars of the community before they went to war. They didn’t have any issues. They were at the top of their class,” said Fairfax County General District Chief Judge Penney S. Azcarate. “Now they are coming back, and they are having issues dealing with life.”



The Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket recognizes the toll placed on Veterans that accompanies military service. The mission is to increase public safety by incorporating a focused docket for veterans who have been arrested for crimes, but who have mental health issues, to avoid jail time by completing an intense, extensive treatment course. The Veterans Treatment Docket team collaborates with the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, the Public Defender’s Office, Sheriff, Chief of Police, Department of Veterans Affairs, Community Service Board, Judges, and many others. As a result of being the first court in Virginia to be certified, the program is in line for a two year grant to help fund the startup and maintenance of the program.

The goal is to provide proper care and support in order to rehabilitate and return the veteran to a productive, law-abiding life: ultimately reducing recidivism and criminal justice costs. The option of a Veterans Treatment Docket offers problem solving skills, counseling, and a former service mentor. While Fairfax’s docket will be a first for Virginia, there are over 200 Veteran Treatment Courts/Dockets throughout the United States. Supervisor Cook was pleased to have the opportunity to show his support for this important new development in Fairfax County.

Express Lanes Sponsoring “Drive to Donate”

On March 21st, the value of all tolls collected on the 495 and 95 Express Lanes will be donated to local fire and rescue departments. Safety is a top priority on the Express Lanes and donations will help give back to the men and women who keep us protected each and every day. The organizations being supported are Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, Prince William County Fire and Rescue, and Stafford County Fire and Rescue.

Supervisor Cook in the Community

On **February 8th**, Supervisor Cook attended the Sixth Annual Friends of Sadie Blood Drive which was held at the Oaks Community Center in Burke.

On **February 12th**, Supervisor Cook was honored to speak at a ceremony honoring the newly established Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket at the Fairfax County Courthouse. Later that evening, Supervisor Cook spoke to members of the Burke Centre Conservancy about local issues affecting their neighborhood.

On **February 14th**, Supervisor Cook attended the Korean American Senior Service Association Lunar Senior Party which was held at the Palace Restaurant in Annandale. Afterwards, he went to Luther Jackson Middle School for the Annual Chinese New Year's Festival Opening Ceremony sponsored by the Asian Community Service Center.

On **February 18th**, Supervisor Cook attended the Braddock District Council Aging in Place Committee meeting. This month the discussion centered on the newly adopted 50+ Plan.

On **February 22nd**, Supervisor Cook spoke at the kickoff celebration at Kilroy's for the 50th Anniversary of the Chapel Square Community.

On **February 23rd**, Supervisor Cook attended the Kate's Place Welcome Home Event sponsored by

Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. The six units of permanent supportive housing adjacent to the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter offer extremely low income and formerly homeless families a place to call home.



On **February 25th**, Supervisor Cook hosted a Roundtable Discussion for Homeowners and Civic Association leaders. It was a great turnout with around 45 representatives in attendance.

On **February 27th**, Supervisor Cook helped to distribute awards at the Government Center for the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Art and Media Contest. This contest is sponsored by the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services.

On **February 28th**, Supervisor Cook stopped by a home in Braddock District that was just acquired by Marian Homes and the Knights of Columbus which is being renovated and improved to house individuals with intellectual disabilities. Supervisor Cook took a few swings with a hammer as they began the demolition process.

Braddock Neighborhood News: World Police & Fire Games

Supervisor Cook hosts a monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16 which is available on most cable networks. Each month, Supervisor Cook invites topical guests to share pertinent information with the viewers.

This month's show highlights an exciting opportunity for Fairfax County. This summer, Fairfax County will host the 2015 World Police and Fire Games, a ten day event that will bring thousands of exceptional athletes and spectators to our own backyard. Joining Supervisor Cook on the show are Stephen Zack, Vice President of Marketing & Communications, Ms. Kim Palmese, Director of Workforce for the 2015 Games, and Lieutenant James Krause from the Fairfax County Police Department.

The shows air throughout the month and can be seen Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 5:00 p.m.

Take the Next Step in Leadership!

Leadership Fairfax has two opportunities that will allow you to take the next step in your leadership and community service journey to give back to the Fairfax County Community.

The Signature Program is designed for senior executives and brings together leaders from across all sectors. The **Emerging Leaders Institute** allows young professionals to receive individual mentoring, participate in community service projects, and learn how to make a positive difference in their communities.

The information sessions for the programs will be held on **Tuesday, March 17th from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.** at Teqcorner, LLC, and **Thursday, April 16th from 8:00 – 9:00 am** at the Sherwood Center. Registration is now available [online](#). For more information visit <https://www.leadershipfairfax.org/> or email sary@leadershipfairfax.org.

STEMtastics 2015

STEMtastics 2015 is a career day event designed to educate and inspire girls in Fairfax County to consider careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields. The event will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015, at NOVA-Annandale Campus from 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Female presenters currently working in STEM fields will lead hands-on workshops for students, while parents have the opportunity to attend informational workshops related to high school resources, college financing, and opportunities for parental support.

Registration is now open [online](#) and will close on March 14. The registration fee is \$15.00 or \$5.00 for students on the free/reduced lunch program. For more information please visit <http://mclean-va.aauw.net/stemtastics/> or email questions to mcleanaauw@gmail.com.

Fairfax Optimist Club's Trivia Night Fundraiser

On Saturday, March 21st, the Fairfax Optimist Club will be hosting a trivia night event to raise funds for projects for children in the community. Tickets are \$15.00 a person, and guests must be 12 or older to attend. There will be raffles and prizes, and food and beverages will be available for purchase. The event will run from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and will be held at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church on Braddock Road. For more information please contact Anne Grabowski at (540)-341-8203.

Land Use Update

Christopher at Kenilworth. (RZ/FDP 2014-BR-019) The public hearing for this case was deferred until March 26, 2015 because the Planning Commission did not meet on February 18th due to weather. A Staff Report recommending approval was published on January 29 and can be found here: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdfw/4476412.PDF>. A public hearing before the Planning Commission is now scheduled for March 26th at 8:15 p.m. to allow the case to be re-advertised. To speak before the Commission, register [here](#) or call 703-324-2865 prior to 3:00 p.m. on the day of the public hearing. A Board of Supervisor's public hearing date has been tentatively set for April 7th at 2:00 p.m.

U-Haul It. (RZ 2015-BR-001, and SE 2015-BR-001) The Ravensworth Farm Community will hear a presentation from the applicant at its Civic Association's general meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 26th at the Community Church of Christ located at 5610 Inverchapel Road. An additional presentation will be made to the Braddock District Land Use Committee on March 17th at 7:00 pm. The property in question is located at 5271 and 5285 Port Royal Road on which a warehouse built in 1963 is located. The Applicant seeks to rezone the property from I-4 to I-5 to use the land for truck rental and self-storage within the footprint of the existing building. A hearing

before the Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled for May 21st.

Busy Bears Child Care, Inc. (SE 2014-BR-063) A public hearing before the Board of Supervisors was held on March 3rd to hear from the applicants, John and Laura Bernhardt, to operate a home child care facility for up to twelve children in the Danbury Forest community at 5509 Mitcham Court. The Board unanimously approved this request.

Cardinal Forest Parking District. This was passed at the March 2nd Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Human Services Corner

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program serves individuals or families with a 2014 income of \$52,000 or less. Last tax season, low-income families in this area saved over \$1.1 million in tax preparation fees by having their tax returns prepared for free by volunteers in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). These families received over \$8 million in refunds and credits. Clients bring their social security cards, W2s, and other documents to one of twenty locations in the area and are generally served on a first come, first-served basis. They are greeted by volunteers who help organize documents and then meet with a trained and tested volunteer who prepares their returns using professional software provided by the IRS. Translators and IT support volunteers also assist. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you know someone who is eligible for the program, go to www.nvacash.org, call James Do at 703-533-5471, or email james.do@fairfaxcounty.gov.

AARP Free Tax-Aide Assistance Program

The AARP Free Tax-Aide Assistance Program has close to 300 Volunteers, certified by IRS, who will assist taxpayers in the preparation and submittal of their Virginia and Federal tax returns. They are located at thirteen sites in Northern Virginia to provide this service free of cost for taxpayers with low and middle incomes. Assistance is available through April 15th and all returns are filed electronically. Remember to bring documents, such as last year's tax return, a photo ID, and your Social Security card. Residents with illnesses or infirmities, which confine them to their homes, may schedule appointments with AARP by calling 703-594-6576. For more information please visit www.aarp.org/money/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.

Volunteers Needed to Assist Residents in Long-Term Care

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is looking for people who are empathetic, diplomatic, assertive and skilled communicators to be Volunteer Ombudsmen. As an Ombudsman you will be assigned to visit a local nursing or assisted living facility, working to ensure that the residents' rights are being protected and helping residents with problems that they are unable to resolve alone.

Volunteer Ombudsmen dedicate four hours per week for one year. Visits must occur between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays. Ongoing support and training is provided.

The next 3-day training will be held on **March 9th, 11th and 18th**, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is further suggested that **March 23, 2015** be reserved as a back-up date should there be any weather related cancelations. For more information, please call **(703) 324-5861** or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/LTCOmbudsman.

Specially Adapted Resource Clubs (SPARC) Opens a New Location!

On February 13th, SPARC announced the grand opening of its third location which will provide more opportunities for young adults with life-long disabilities. While there are few resources available for individuals with life-long disabilities to live fulfilled lives after high school graduation, SPARC has the solution. SPARC partners with Fairfax County Community Recreation Services, Therapeutic Recreation Division, to provide club members many opportunities to make their own self-directed choices based on what they want to learn. The programs feature enrichment opportunities and they offer members different learning options depending on age and ability. For more information, please contact Donna Goldbranson at donna@sparcsolutins.org.

Medicare General Enrollment Period

The Medicare General Enrollment Period allows a beneficiary who missed enrolling in Medicare during either their Initial Enrollment Period or a Special Enrollment Period to enroll during the annual General Enrollment Period. However, this delay often will mean you will pay a late enrollment premium penalty. The General Enrollment Period lasts from January 1st through March 31st and coverage begins the following July. However, your monthly premium increases 10 percent for each 12-month period you were eligible for but did not enroll in Medicare Part B. Most beneficiaries will enroll in Medicare Part A during the Initial Enrollment Period because Part A is free if you have contributed into the trust fund with ten years of covered earnings. If you do not have ten years of earnings, you will pay for Part A.

Don't delay another year. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to get this resolved now. Ask for an appointment, or go to your local Social Security office. For more information, call the Fairfax County Virginia Insurance and Counseling Assistance Program (VICAP) at 703-324-5851.

Fairfax County Adult Day Health Care Associates, Inc.

Do you have an aging parent or disabled adult living with you who wants to keep aging in place? Are you looking for an affordable daytime setting that is safe, warm, and friendly, with appropriate activities, meals and a dedicated staff?

There are five Adult Day Health Care Centers located across the county in Herndon, Alexandria, Annandale, McLean, and Lincolnia. They are supervised by the Fairfax County Health Department and staffed by registered nurses, recreational therapists and other professionals. Participants can enroll for a minimum of two days a week, and a maximum of five days a week. The Centers are open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. although participants are not required to be present the entire time.

The Centers offer friendships and the opportunity to socialize, as well as activities to encourage mental stimulation, adapted daily exercise, music and performers, celebrations, and field trips. Health monitoring, medication administration, assessments and care plans are performed by registered nurses. Personal care is provided by the Program Assistants, as needed, including assistance with ambulation, toileting, and incontinence care. There is rolling enrollment.

If you are interested in learning more, please feel free to contact Fairfax Adult Day Health Care Associates at associates@fairfaxadhc.com.

Community Events throughout March

Tax Relief Workshops Began on Feb. 28: The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is hosting a series of free tax relief workshops that began on February 28 and run through March at several locations throughout the county. Real estate tax relief is available for older adults and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications. You also may be eligible for car tax relief and tax relief for renters.

A Tax Relief workshop will be held at the Kings Park Library on **Tuesday, March 17th**. The workshop starts at 10:00 a.m. To schedule an appointment call 703-425-9300. You can also visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/> or call 703-222-8234, TTY 703-222-7594, for more information about tax relief.

Special Needs Life Planning Stages - Across All Generations Workshop, Mar. 10: This no cost workshop is presented by the DisAbility Resource Center and The Washington Group Special Care Planning Team. This workshop is open to families, caregivers, case managers, and anyone in the community who would like to learn about the various life planning stages for individuals with special needs. The workshop will take place from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Place Fredericksburg-Mary Washington. To attend please RSVP by emailing calford@financialguide.com or by calling 703- 865-6502.

Braddock District Aging in Place: Independent Living Program, Mar 11: Aging in Place will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Supervisor Cook's office. The topic to be discussed is Independent Living Programs

Caregiver Bootcamp, Mar 12: This is a day-long training event including presentations on financial planning, medical issues, legal needs, and caregiver support. The bootcamp will be hosted by the Insight Memory Care Center at 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, in Fairfax. To RSVP please email Christi Clark at Christi.clark@insightmcc.org.

Veterans Information Fair, Mar. 14: Starting at 10:00 a.m., National Service Officers will present a Benefits Information Seminar for all veterans and their families. The fair will take place at the George Mason University School of Law in Arlington.

Special Needs Safety & Community Inclusion Workshop, Mar. 19: This workshop is presented by the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (the J) and The Washington Group Special Care Planning Team. The topics for the event are safety and community inclusion for individuals with Special Needs. This workshop will showcase various safety and crisis prevention programs and explore tips for parents and caregivers of individuals with special needs. There will also be a safety-focused resource fair. The workshop will take place from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. To attend please RSVP by emailing calford@financialguide.com or by calling 703-865-6502.

Fashion Show, Luncheon and Marketplace

On Thursday, March 19th, the Shepherd's Center Fairfax-Burke will host a Fashion Show, Luncheon and Marketplace at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Burke. From 10:00 a.m. to noon, attendees are invited to shop at the Spring Marketplace where local vendors will sell their products, with a

percentage of proceeds going to SCFB. Starting at noon, there will be a fashion show by Draper's & Damon of Fairfax, and a special luncheon, along with door prizes, raffles and coupons. For reservations call Faye Quesenberry at 703-620-0161 by March 12th. The cost is \$25.00; please make checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office at 703-323-4788. See www.scfbva.org for more information.

Environmental Update

Fairfax County's Sustainability Initiatives documents the county's efforts to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship and to protect the environment. This new report consolidates information into a single, go-to resource: a first for Fairfax County. It gives an overview of the county's many environmental sustainability and stewardship projects and programs.

These projects and programs support Fairfax County's energy and environment goals laid out in the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Agenda, Energy Policy and Comprehensive Plan. This overarching program consists of a funding process and an energy plan with goals and actions that is currently a work in progress. Fairfax County believes that environmental sustainability and stewardship are not merely "add-ons," or afterthoughts, but rather essential and fundamental responsibilities. Environmental quality is essential for everyone living and working in Fairfax County. To read the full report click [here](#).

Nova Soil and Water Conservation District's Native Seedling Sale



The annual native seedling sale is now accepting orders, and for the first time, you can order online! Seedling packages will be available for pickup in early May. The Tree Package features six seedlings for \$11.95 and the Small Tree & Shrub Package features ten seedlings for \$16.95. Both packages consist of bundled bare-root seedlings. The bundles are not large and can easily fit into a small bucket in the backseat of your car. To see the tree and shrub species offered in this year's packages, and to place your order, please visit [NVSWCD's website](#).

Rain Barrel Workshops

As part of a regional initiative, the district offers build-your-own rain barrel workshops and also distributes low-cost rain barrels to Fairfax County citizens. At the workshops, you will learn how to install and maintain a rain barrel and take one home! Rain barrels can be placed under downspouts to capture runoff from your roof. Rain barrels can save both money and water. Instead of water from the tap or faucet, you can use the water you've saved to keep your home landscape happy and growing. Furthermore, installing a rain barrel means that you will be protecting the Chesapeake Bay. Water stored in your rain barrel won't rush off into our streams. Instead, as you use the stored rain water around the home and garden, it will absorb slowly into the ground replenishing groundwater supplies. By decreasing the volume of storm runoff, rain barrels also help moderate stream erosion and the resulting pollution that is impairing the Chesapeake Bay.

Registration is required for all programs. The fee per barrel is \$55.00 for build-your-own workshops and \$65.00 per barrel for distribution events. To register click [here](#) or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/rainbarrels.htm> for more information.

Build-Your-Own Workshops

Sunday, March 22, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Saturday, April 11, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Green Acres Community Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax

Saturday, May 16, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston

Distribution Events/Rain Barrel Sales

Saturday, March 21st 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street, Arlington

Scholarship Opportunities for Students Interested in the Environment

The Educational Foundation of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annually offers several \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors or currently enrolled college freshmen. The scholarships support college studies related to natural resource conservation. Applications for Fairfax County students must be submitted by March 16th to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. Application forms are available to download.

The Izaak Walton League offers two \$2,500 scholarships for qualified college juniors or seniors. These scholarships help educate tomorrow's conservation leaders by supporting college students pursuing degrees in natural resources and related subjects. The application and specific requirements are available [here](#).